



# **Cold Weather Tips to Protect and prevent freezing pipes**

## City of Scottsdale Water Resources

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Extreme temperatures are common in the desert and typically are heat-related. Occasionally, we also live with extreme cold and freezing temperatures. When cold weather does strike, it's important for you to be prepared both indoors and out.

Frozen water in pipes on your property can lead to expensive repairs, but a few simple preventative measures can help avoid many common problems homeowners face during extreme cold temperatures.

### **Protect your pipes**

- Check outside your house for any exposed pipes and protect them with some type of temporary insulation (a towel, blanket, small rug, etc.)
  - As an option, you can consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape", "heat cable", or similar materials on exposed water pipes.
- Keep garage doors closed, especially if there are water pipes in the garage
- If weather is very cold outside, consider letting the cold water drip from the faucet serviced by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe-even a trickle- will help prevent pipes from freezing because the temperature of the running water is above freezing.

### **How can I tell if my pipes are frozen?**

- If you turn on your outside hose faucet located where your water comes into your house and no water comes out, it's likely your pipes have frozen.
- Check with a neighbor to see if they have water coming out of their hose faucet.

### **What do I do if my pipes are frozen?**

- If your pipes are frozen and are located in an area where they will get some sunshine they should thaw by mid morning.
- If your pipes are frozen and are located in a shaded area it is likely that they will not thaw until after midday.

- If you detect that your water pipes have frozen and burst, turn off the water at the main shut-off valve; and remember to leave your water faucets turned on. (Make sure everyone in your family knows where the water shut-off valve is and how to open and close it.)

#### **Things to NOT DO if you suspect your pipes are frozen**

- **Never** try to thaw a pipe with a torch or other open flame. Water damage is preferable to burning down your house.
- **Do not** use electrical appliances in areas of standing water because you could be electrocuted.